

served as Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States.

HONORING ANTWANETTE KEYS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student, Antwanette Keys. Ms. Keys is the daughter of Ms. Thelma West of Shelby, Mississippi and Mr. Alex McRae of Rosedale, Mississippi.

She began school at an early age, attending the Shelby Head Start Center in Shelby, Mississippi from 1998–2000. Noticeably excelling, she was promoted to elementary school in 2001 attending Brooks Elementary in Duncan, Mississippi. She quickly found a place inside her new school by becoming a member of the Girl Scouts Club.

In 2004 she had to adapt to a different kind a school, Shelby Middle School. At Shelby Middle School she held numerous titles including: Miss Fourth Grade, Miss Seventh Grade, and Miss Shelby Middle School. While upholding these titles she remained academically successful maintaining all A's and B's. Middle school had definitely paved the way for her new found interest in dance. A lifelong passion, she has diligently sought the strength to go above and beyond with the talent that God has blessed her with.

Performing a wide range of dances, she can choreograph anything from Jazz to Hip Hop to Contemporary. Being taught by the best has instilled in her the ability to always strive for the best. In doing so, she swiftly walked the halls of Broad Street High School with an upright attitude and focal point based on success. Knowing that her work never stops, she became Freshman Class President in 2009 followed by Miss Homecoming in 2010. Determined to create a positive image she became Miss Student Council in 2011 and went on to achieve her biggest accomplishment, Miss Broad Street High. She was a member of the Broad Street High School Marching Band for four years and member of D.R.E.A.M.S. Step team. She is a member of the National Technical Honor Society and the Student Council at Broad Street High School.

Antwanette works for the Bolivar Community Action Senior Select Program, which assists high school seniors in finding work while encouraging school attendance and community service. She has also worked for Peer Power for 3 years. This is a program dedicated to providing after school tutorials and enrichment activities for young scholars.

Antwanette currently attends Christian Union Missionary Baptist Church in Drew, Mississippi where she boldly embraces her faith as a Christian. She is active in the Youth Choir, a member of the CUC Praise team and secretary of Sunday School Department.

Antwanette is a mentee in a program through Coahoma Community College Tri-County Workforce Alliance in Clarksdale, Mississippi. Since community service is essential to her, in 2010 she and other students participated in Students Involved for Community Change summer school. It is a highly selective summer leadership program focusing on civil rights, community organization, and edu-

cational advancement. Upon graduating, she plans to further her education and major in nursing to become a Registered Nurse. After completing nursing school she will pursue medical school to become a Gynecologist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Antwanette Keys for her dedication in being an outstanding student.

FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS: 4 MILLION MORE REASONS TO END THE SEQUESTER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues, I am hearing from constituents who are looking but unable to find jobs, and who are now faced with cuts to their Federal unemployment insurance (UI) benefits because of the sequester.

These are people like Janice in Chicago, who last month wrote me, "Yesterday, I received an email from the Illinois Department of Employment Security stating that starting in June and through the month of September, my unemployment benefits will be reduced by 16.8%" because of the budget sequester.

Or Mary in Arlington Heights, who emailed me, "I am currently unemployed. These cuts will cost me \$200 a month. This is a lot of money for a single woman living on her own. These effects are real. They're more than just numbers on a piece of paper."

Mary is right—the effects of the sequester are happening to real people—people like her and Janice and their families. The Department of Labor estimates that by October 1, as many as 3.8 million unemployed workers could see reductions in their federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation benefits as a result of the sequester.

For these families, the sequester means that they will have less money available to pay their mortgage or rent, doctor's and grocery bills. UI cuts ripple out into local communities, since unemployed workers will spend less on goods and services. Experts tell us that a \$1 spent on UI benefits results in higher consumer spending and increased economic activity of between \$1.50 and \$2.00—so a \$1 cut from UI benefits means an even greater loss in the effort to strengthen local economies. As Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics says, "if you cut unemployment insurance, then the economic impact is outsized." ("Unemployment Benefit Cut Adds to Drag on U.S. Spending: Economy," Bloomberg News, May 6, 2013.)

The National Employment Law Project has released an excellent analysis, "The Sequester's Devastating Impact on Families of Unemployed Workers and the Struggling Unemployment Insurance System." It estimates that, if the sequester continues for the rest of FY2013, federal EUC benefits could be cut by more than \$2.3 billion—an average of more than \$400 per family.

The NELP analysis also points out that the sequester's impacts do not stop at federal UI cuts—they also mean cuts to the training, job matching and reemployment initiatives designed to help unemployed workers get back

to work. Those cuts, too, impose real harm on families and our economy by making it harder for unemployed men and women to get back into the workforce.

I am a cosponsor of H.R. 900, the Cancel the Sequester Act, because it will stop these very harmful cuts to Federal UI benefits and job creation efforts. I urge my colleagues to come together now so that we can stop these across-the-board, meat-ax sequester cuts that are so damaging to our constituents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 287, 288: my flight from Florida was canceled; the next flight arrived after first votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes," on both.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FLEXIBILITY FOR WORKING FAMILIES ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, across all sectors and industries, flexible work arrangements are a key to meeting the 21st century's diverse workforce needs. Such voluntary arrangements have been shown to boost employee satisfaction and their physical and mental health as well as improve businesses bottom line by helping to retain key talent, reduce absenteeism, and enhance employee productivity.

Flexible workplace policies are a win-win for business and workers. To help promote these policies, I am introducing the Flexibility for Working Families Act. This legislation guarantees employees the right to request flexible work arrangements and provides employers with flexibility by encouraging them to review these requests, propose changes, and even deny them if they are not in the best interest of the business. Such voluntary arrangements between employees and employers include changing the time, amount, and/or place that work is conducted.

Over the last 50 years the American workforce and demographics have shifted tremendously. Last month, Pew Research found that "breadwinner moms" are the sole or primary provider in more than four in ten households with children under age 18. Furthermore, more households are caring for older relatives as medical advances mean people are living longer, with studies showing that almost 60 percent of those who provide unpaid care to an adult or to a child with special needs are employed. It's important that this workforce have options such as flexibility to help them handle even the most basic demands of work and family.

I urge my colleagues to support the Flexibility for Working Families Act, and I thank Senator BOB CASEY for introducing Senate companion legislation.